

CRIME 'CONFEDERACY' SMASHED; TORRANCE POLICE LEAD ROUNDUP

A Penny for your Thoughts

Noting that school is about out for the summer, that JUNE is here, and putting two and two together, the HERALD "Penny" photographer this week asked:

"What do you think about young men and women just out of high school getting married?"

Answering were:

Mrs. Richard G. Colburn, 1820 Andreo, housewife:
"They definitely should wait, but if they are determined the parents should not stand in their way, but should try to help them."

Gaudiose Bilodeau, Amesbury, Maine, visiting here:
"It is not too good for them to get married too soon. I think young people should go ahead with their school-get some experience in the world before getting married."

M. Singer, Torrance Shoe Mart:
"I don't think the youngsters should get married too young. Parents should oppose young marriages to a reasonable extent but should not force their children to run away to get married."

Clyde Baumgardner, 1441 Marcelina, finance company manager:
"I believe young people should wait until they are old enough to realize what the responsibilities of marriage are. They should wait until they are older—at least of legal age."

Mrs. Charles Dunn, Gardena, housewife:
"It's nice for the boy to go on to college, but as for the girl, she does not need the advanced education as much. The parents should help if they can."

Mrs. Douglas H. Swan, 19333 Hinsdale, housewife:
"It is alright if they really want to get married. It depends on the children, and if they plan to go ahead with their education. The parents should encourage the children to be sure before they make the move. Young marriages, however, usually work out."

Police Identify Body in Slough

Sheriff's homicide deputies reported yesterday that the body of a woman found Friday in a slough east of Torrance has been tentatively identified as that of Mrs. Lillian Evans, 68, of East Los Angeles.

Fingerprints taken from the body are being sent to the FBI for positive identification, deputies told The HERALD.

Further investigations into the death of the woman, believed to have been dead from one to two weeks, was ordered yesterday after the coroner reported that no apparent cause of death could be found. She had not suffered any visible signs of foul play, it was reported. Microscopic examinations will be made this week.

Mrs. Evans was first reported missing by her family two weeks ago.

The decomposed body of the woman was found in foot-deep water east of Moneta Ave. near its juncture with Figueroa.

Two boys hunting in the

Police Chief To Support Pitchess' Bid

Torrance Police Chief Percy Bennett today announced his 100 per cent support of Under-Sheriff Pete Pitchess, candidate to succeed retiring Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz.

"It is extremely important that our department continue to have the cooperation of the Sheriff's department," Bennett said.

"Pitchess, undersheriff for the past five years, will see that this cooperation continues," the chief declared.

Local Youth Wins Offices At College

Gene Walker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene K. Walker, 2232 231st St., a sophomore at California Western University in Point Loma, San Diego, was elected to the student executive council and to the Pep Squad for the year 1958-59.

On May 16, Walker was elected to the executive council as commissioner of social activities. Prior to his election he had been serving as a member of the social activities committee. Announcement of the winners to the 12 man council was made at a box social in the Greek Theatre on the campus.

Walker was chosen as a cheer leader in the election of the new Pep Squad on May 23. Active in promoting the spirit and morale of the University, he served the past year as president of the Rally Club.

Youth Band in 12th Annual Spring Concert Here Monday

The Torrance Area Youth Concert Band will give its annual spring concert tomorrow evening in the Torrance Civic Auditorium beginning at 8:15.

This is the band's 12th such event since its beginning shortly after the war.

It is also the first formal concert the band has prepared since they appeared at the Midwest National Band Clinic in Chicago last December and played for 500 band directors and music educators.

Numbers to be performed by the band include the American Overture for Band; American Salute, based on "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," by Morton Gould; Carl Friedemann's Slavonic Rhapsody No. 1; Second Suite for Band by Gustav Holst; Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral from the opera, "Lohengrin," by Richard Wagner, and the Overture Solennelle (1812) by Tchaikowsky. Jim Thompson, student director, will conduct the Beguine Festival by Glen Osser.

A trumpet trio composed of Gary Tiernan, Robert Taylor



ALL-NITE PARTY . . . Torrance High School Seniors Roberta Rogan and Dale Mead are shown buying tickets to the PTA-sponsored all night party to follow graduation ceremonies June 12. PTA members selling tickets to the pair are Mrs. Fern J. Mead and Mrs. Betty Smith. The party will be held at the Pacific Coast Club in Long Beach.



STREET SIGNS . . . County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn joins with local civic leaders in inspecting new oversized street signs recently posted on Artesia Blvd. between Alameda St. and Hawthorne Blvd. Supervisor Hahn recently requested the State Division of Highways to provide the signs in order to adequately identify major cross streets. Shown from left: Richard Fitzgerald, secretary-manager, Torrance Chamber of Commerce; O. R. Trueblood, president, Torrance Chamber; Chester A. Brown, president, Lawndale Chamber of Commerce; Supervisor Hahn; Robert Longacre, president, Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Charles Welton, secretary-manager, Gardena Chamber.

'Miss Torrance' To Represent City in Finals

Torrance will be represented in the finals of the Miss California Contest it was announced today by O. R. Trueblood, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce.

"Miss Torrance" will be selected at the area finals June 7 at the Stadium Theatre and will represent the community in the "Miss California" Finals in Santa Ana on June 14.

Due to the nature of the contest, girls do not have to be Torrance residents to enter, Trueblood said. Stricter rules would eliminate the possibility of girls in cities not holding Miss Universe Franchises for participation in the series of contests ending up with the Miss Universe Finals on July 17 to 27 in Long Beach.

Girls wishing to enter are urged to call the Chamber Office for entry blanks.

An entrant must be an American citizen, a resident of California for at least six months prior to June 7, 1958 and between the ages of 18 and 28 (born prior to July 1, 1940). She cannot be married and must be of good character

Claim Solution To 121 Crimes

Smashing of a loosely knit "confederacy" which has been tagged with more than 100 crimes in the Torrance-southwest area, was announced here this week by Police Chief Percy G. Bennett.

Crediting a joint drive by Torrance and neighboring police officers for the roundup, Chief Bennett said smashing of the loosely organized gang accounted for burglaries and thefts in which more than \$25,000 had been taken.

Arrest of the various suspects began several weeks ago after a conference of detectives from surrounding departments was called by Torrance.

Investigation of the various crimes in the area began under the coordination of M. H. Porter, assistant chief of the Torrance department. A day and night watch of suspects, and a close watch over potential sites for their operations, was set up under Porter's supervision. Officers staked out on top of business buildings at night for several weeks, using walkie-talkies and night glasses in an effort to get a lead on the operations.

The First Break
The first break came after nine days when Allan L. Cox, 28, of 1534 W. 214th St., was arrested. He was reportedly loading stolen goods into a trailer at his home.

Arrested in quick succession after Cox had been jailed were Harry E. Lathrop, 28, of Redondo Beach; Bill L. Robertson, 25, Redondo Beach; Roger Deitge, 23, 25902 Oak St., Lomita; Richard L. Benfer, 39, Lawndale, and Clarence L. Rehfeld, 21, of Lawndale.

All were jailed on charges of burglary.

Other Charges
Arrested on other charges were Dennis Shelby, 22, Lawndale, robbery; Gail E. Cretzinger, 25, 4609 W. 161st St., narcotics; Charles E. Mitchell, 28, 21404 Vera St.; Oscar B. Bailey, 27, 21936 Main St., and Albert Bullock, 47, Los Angeles. The latter three were arrested by Harbor police as suspects in a car theft ring.

Bailey and Mitchell are believed to be involved with other suspects in the burglaries.

Among the 121 crimes tied to the "confederacy" were 45 in the Harbor Division of Los Angeles; Lennox Sheriff's Division, 25; Gardena, 5; Hermosa Beach, 1; Manhattan Beach, 13; Torrance, 18; Long Beach, 4; Redondo Beach, 7; El Segundo, 1; Hawthorne, 1, and Compton, 1.

Among the Torrance crimes apparently cleared up were

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Meadow Park Graduation Set June 12

Meadow Park will graduate 70 eighth grade students at exercises held in the school cafeteria. The ceremonies will begin at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 12. Admission will be by ticket only.

The graduation program will have a patriotic theme and will highlight short talks by the graduates and include musical numbers. Musical numbers will be directed by Joe Hicks accompanied by Mrs. Georgina Benson, both teachers at Meadow Park.

Walter A. Garrabrant, member of the Board of Education, will present the diplomas to the graduates, assisted by the eighth grade teachers, David Ellsworth and John Milor.

The chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Paula DiFiore, third grade teacher, will sing. The orchestra will be directed by Mrs. Doris Crosier.



ALLAN L. COX . . . Leads to Arrests



GAIL CRETSINGER . . . Nabbed with Others

Coordinating Council Sets Installation

Torrance Coordinating Council will install new officers Friday at the Palms Restaurant, following a dinner meeting.

Mrs. John Mangan, who succeeds Dr. Warren Low, will be installed as president of the group.

Installing officers for the new slate will be B. P. Gruendyke director of the Department of Community Service, Los Angeles County.

Gruendyke's department assists all Coordinating Councils in the county to serve as champions of needed projects in their community in the field of youth services, culture betterment and civic improvement.

Also to be installed will be W. E. Walton, first vice president; Jim Harmon, second vice president; Mrs. Hal La Moor, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Vi Whittington, recording secretary; Ted Olson, treasurer; Mrs. Robert Orsini, federation representative.

Coed Elected AWS President at UC

Connie Walton, daughter of W. E. Walton, 1415 Acacia Ave., has been re-elected president of the associated women students at the University of California, Riverside.

A junior at UCR this year, Miss Walton is enrolled in the social sciences division. She is a member of the Glangarries, and the Tam O'Shanter's, women's social service groups. She is a 1955 graduate of Torrance High School.